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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,882	03/30/2004	Camri Langbecker	38-21(52729)	2881
27161	7590	03/30/2006	EXAMINER KUBELIK, ANNE R	
MONSANTO COMPANY 800 N. LINDBERGH BLVD. ATTENTION: GAIL P. WUELLNER, IP PARALEGAL, (E2NA) ST. LOUIS, MO 63167			ART UNIT 1638	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 03/30/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/708,882	LANGBECKER ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Anne R. Kubelik	1638	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-5 are pending.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1 is objected to because --, said method-- should be inserted before “comprising” in lines 1-2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Daniell (US Patent Application 2005/108792, filed December 2001).

Daniell teaches a method of producing transplastomic plants comprising growing a suspension culture of carrot cells, transforming by microparticle bombardment with a chloroplast transformation vector, selecting for transformed cells, and regenerating the cells into plants (¶108-113). The selectable marker gene in the chloroplast transformation vector is the BADH

gene, selecting agent is betaine aldehyde, and the heterologous gene of interest encodes anthrax vaccine.

5. Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Khan et al (1999, *Nature Biotechnol.* 17:910-915).

Khan et al teach a method of producing transplastomic plants comprising growing a suspension culture of rice cells, transforming by microparticle bombardment with a chloroplast transformation vector, selecting for transformed cells, and regenerating the cells into plants (pg 912, right column, paragraph 4, to pg 913, left column, paragraph 1; Fig 5). The selectable marker gene in the chloroplast transformation vector is *aadA*, the selecting agent is spectinomycin, and the heterologous gene of interest encodes GFP.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daniell et al (1997, US Patent 5,693,507) in view of Watad et al (1991, *Physiol. Planta.* 83:307-313).

The claims are drawn to a method of transforming by microparticle bombardment the plastids of dark-grown 4-day-old tobacco suspension cells with a construct encoding a selectable marker, and selecting for cells with transformed plastids.

Daniell et al disclose a method of transforming by microparticle bombardment the plastids of 4-day-old tobacco suspension cells, and selecting for cells with transformed plastids (column 9, line 55, to column 11, line 51); the vector encodes the selectable marker, cat. Daniell et al do not disclose regenerating those cells into plants or using use dark grown suspension cells.

Watad et al teach regenerating tobacco suspension cells into plants (paragraph spanning the columns, pg 308).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of transforming the plastids of tobacco suspension cells as taught by Daniell et al, to regenerate those cells into plants as described in Watad et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to regenerate those cells into plants because of the suggestion of Daniell et al to do so (column 5, lines 26-45). One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use dark grown suspension cells because of the suggestion of Daniell et al to use etioplasts, which are dark-grown plastids (column 9, line 36).

Conclusion

8. No claim is allowed.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anne R. Kubelik, whose telephone number is (571) 272-0801. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anne Marie Grunberg, can be reached at (571) 272-0975.

The central fax number for official correspondence is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the

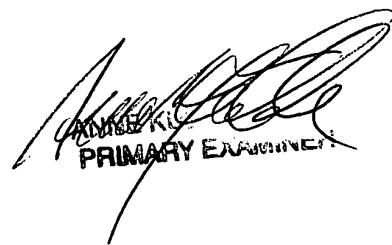
Art Unit: 1638

USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

Anne Kubelik, Ph.D.

March 21, 2006



ANNE KUBELIK
PRIMARY EXAMINER